

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~^{An} ink container opener of claim 1, comprising:

a first portion which is adapted to remove a cap of an ink container; and,
a second portion connected to said first portion, wherein said first and second
portions are approximately perpendicular to each other; said first portion and said second
portion each comprising an opening, wherein said openings of said first and second
portions are each adapted to receive said cap of said ink container, wherein said opening
of said first portion comprises a plurality of ridges extending along at least one side of said
opening.

3. (Original) The ink container opening of claim 2, wherein said ridges are substantially rectangular in shape and are equally spaced apart from one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[1]] 2, further comprising a plurality of reinforcement members between said first and second portions.

5. (Original) The ink container opener of claim 4, wherein said reinforcement members are spaced apart and parallel to one another.

6. (Original) The ink container opener of claim 5, wherein said reinforcement members are integral with said first portion and said second portion.

7. (Original) The ink container opener of claim 6, wherein said reinforcement members are substantially triangular in shape.

8. (Original) The ink container opener of claim 4, wherein said reinforcement members are of unitary construction with said first and second portions.

9. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said openings are each substantially rectangular in shape.

10. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said second portion is longer than said first portion along a longitudinal axis of said first and second portions.

11. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said first portion and said second portion are of unitary construction.

12. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said opener is substantially L-shaped.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An ink container opener of claim 13, comprising:

a container holder member adapted to hold a cap of an ink container;
a support member adapted to be placed on a work surface, wherein said
holder member and support member each includes an opening for receiving and holding
said cap of an ink container; and

said holder member and said support member are formed of a unitary
construction and are approximately perpendicular to one another, wherein said opening of
said holder member comprises a plurality of teeth along an inner edge thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[13]] 14, wherein said ink container opener further comprises a plurality of reinforcement members interconnecting said holder member and said support member.

16. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[13]] 14, wherein said support member comprises a support surface for supporting said opener when force is applied to said holder member.

17. (Currently Amended) The ink container opener of claim [[13]] 14, wherein said opening of said holder comprises a plurality of ridges formed on internal surfaces thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of opening an ink container of the type having first and second connected container portions, said method using a one-piece ink container opener having a first and second container holder member; and each of said holder members having an opening for receiving a cap of said ink container, said method comprising:

supporting said a cap of said container within one of said openings of said first and second holder members;

placing the other of said holder members on a work surface;

applying lateral force to a body of the container until said container first portion is disconnected from said container second portion.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The opener of claim [[19]] 21, wherein each of said openings is substantially rectangular in shape.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An opener of claim 19, for removing a cap from an ink container body, comprising:

means for supporting a cap of said ink container, comprising:

a first portion connected to a second portion and extending at an angle thereto, said first and second portions each including an opening for receiving said container cap and spacing the container body from the other of said first and second portions, wherein at least one of said openings includes ridges substantially rectangular in shape and equally spaced apart from one another.

22. (Currently Amended) The opener of claim [[19]] 21, wherein at least one of said openings has a plurality of linear edges.

23. (Currently Amended) The opener of claim [[19]] 21, further including a plurality of reinforcement members between said first and second portions.

24. (Currently Amended) The opener of claim [[19]] 21, wherein said first portion and said second portion are perpendicular to one another.

25. (Currently Amended) The opener of claim [[19]] 21, wherein said openings of first portion and said second portion are of different sizes.